

ENGINEERING HERITAGE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Proposal to Nominate

Dawes Battery Remains

as an Item of Engineering Heritage Interest

Item Name:	Dawes Battery Remains		
Other/Former Names:	Tarra		
Locality:	Dawes Pont, Sydney		
Address:	Hickson Road, The Rocks NSW 2000		
Co-ordinates	Lat: -33.854887465770545, Lon: 151.2090497838592		
Current Owner:	Property NSW, Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority		
Original Owner:	Eora Aboriginal people, then British Government		
Current use:	Archaeological site		
Former use:	Gun battery		
Proposed use:	Archaeological site		
Item Condition:	Good, with excellent interpretive signage and cannons.		
Designer:	Lieutenant Willian Dawes, Francis Greenway, Lt Col. George Barney, Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority		
Builder:	Lieutenant Willian Dawes, Francis Greenway, Lt Col. George Barney, , Dorman Long & Co, Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority		
Started:	1791	Completed:	1925. Re-vitalisation works complete 2001.
History:	<p>The western point at the entrance to Sydney Cove was known as Tarra by the Eora Aboriginal people.</p> <p>After arrival of the First fleet in 1788, a timber observatory was built there by Lieutenant William Dawes of the Royal Marines who had been selected as the Colony's astronomer; Dawes re-named Tarra, Point Maskelyne in honour of the Astronomer Royal, Dr Nevil Maskelyne; later it became Dawes Point.</p> <p>The first fortification of the Colony of New South Wales was a small redoubt erected at Cattle Point – now Bennelong Point, by Lieutenant Dawes. When completed in November 1788 it had two brass 6-pounder guns and four iron 12 pounders.</p> <p>Receipt of a report in 1790 of a dispute between England and Spain prompted construction of another battery on the high ground of Dawes Point, again by Lieutenant Dawes. This was completed in August 1791 with the guns and flagstaff transferred from the Cattle Point battery, which was demolished.</p> <p>There were upgradings throughout the 1800s. In 1819 Governor Lachlan Macquarie ordered the convict architect Francis Greenway to construct improvements to the Dawes Point fort. These comprised a semicircular battery supported by a new decorative castellated guardhouse, built on</p>		

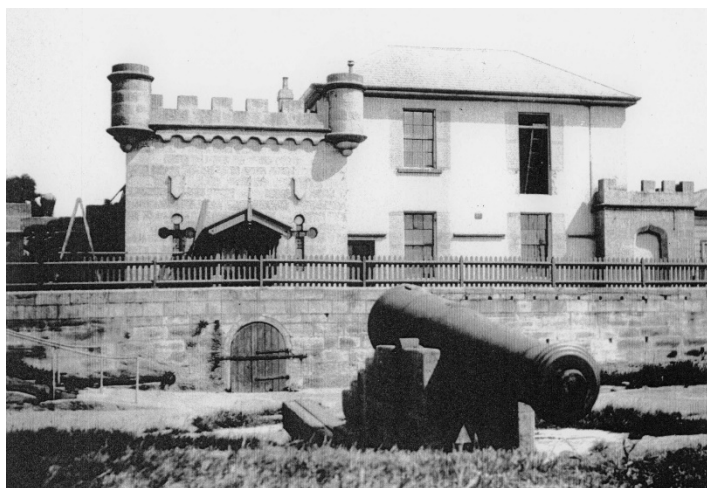
ENGINEERING HERITAGE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

	<p>the site of the 1780 powder magazine.</p> <p>A description of the battery in 1839 states that: <i>Dawes Battery is a curved fleche, the length round the crest of the parapet being 120 feet; the interior slope is two feet high and retained by a stone wall; the remainder of the parapet is formed of earth; it mounts eighteen guns, viz., six six-pounders and twelve twelve-pounders; the whole of them are en barbette; the site of this battery is considerably above the level of the water.</i></p> <p>In 1855, because of fear of a Russian naval attack during the Crimean War, Governor Denison ordered Lieutenant Colonel George Barney, Commanding Royal Engineer and Colonial Engineer, to upgrade the defences of the inner harbour; this involved reinforcement of Dawes Battery, Kirribilli Point and Mrs. Macquarie's Point, and construction of Fort Denison. Works at Dawes Battery included construction of the Artillery Barracks, improvements to the semi-circular battery (at this time known as the Upper Battery), construction of the Lower Battery (for field artillery), and construction of the Officers' Quarters; it was completed in 1860.</p> <p>However, by the end of the 1800s Sydney's defences had been relocated to the entrance of Port Jackson and Dawes Point and other inner defences slipped into obscurity.</p> <p>Between 1901 and 1903 Dawes Point Battery served as the home of the Commandant of the newly formed Australian Military. In 1925 most of the fort was demolished to make way for the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The remaining buildings served as the headquarters for Dorman Long, the British company building the Bridge. These buildings were demolished in 1932 and the whole area was landscaped to become a park.¹</p> <p>Archaeological excavations in 1995, 1999 and 2000 revealed extensive remains including two underground rooms for storing gunpowder.¹ An interesting 'find' in the excavation, was the top of the concrete block that incorporated the steel guide tubes (on the eastern side), through which passed the cables that restrained the half arch of the Sydney Harbour Bridge as it progressed towards its joining with the half arch from the north side .</p> <p>All the remains have been incorporated into a redesign of the park to commemorate the sites' long and diverse history.¹ The site is excellently and graphically interpreted, including a timeline of the fort's development.</p> <p>¹ <i>Interpretive panel by Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority</i></p>
Description:	<p>The archaeological remains of the Dawes Point Battery (1791-1925) include the floor of the original powder magazine, the circular battery with evidence of four rotating cannon emplacements (5th emplacement under a Harbour Bridge pier), underground magazines, and a stone ramp leading to the footings of the officers' quarters.</p> <p>There are four cannons on stands representing the lower battery, one rotating cannon on a replica wooden carriage installed on an original emplacement of the upper battery. The cannons were manufactured in 1843-1844, as indicated by date stamps on metal work.</p>
Significance:	<p>Dawes Point Battery is important:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in the history of European settlement in Australia; • in terms of the processes of European global expansion and colonialism;

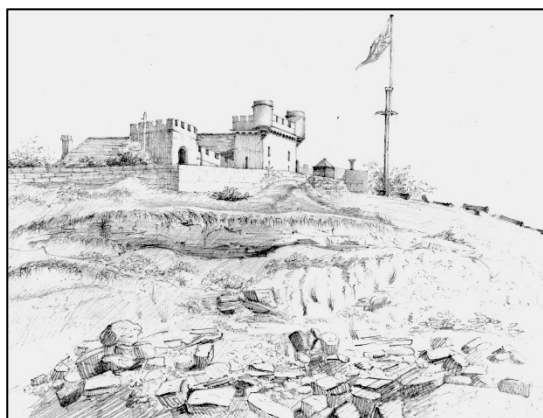
ENGINEERING HERITAGE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • in the history of development of the Colony's defences; and • in its association with important figures in the development of the Colony – William Dawes, Francis Greenway and George Barney. 		
Webpage Summary:	<p>The first fortification of the Colony of New South Wales was a small redoubt erected by Lieutenant Dawes at Cattle Point – now Bennelong Point.</p> <p>After a dispute developed between England and Spain another battery was constructed on Dawes Point, again by Lieutenant Dawes. This was completed in August 1791.</p> <p>There were upgradings throughout the 1800s. In 1819 Governor Lachlan Macquarie ordered the convict architect Francis Greenway to construct improvements to the Dawes Point fort. These comprised a semicircular battery supported by a new decorative castellated guardhouse, built on the site of the 1780 powder magazine.</p> <p>Because of fear of a Russian naval attack during the Crimean War, Lieutenant Colonel George Barney upgraded defences of the inner harbour; this involved reinforcement of Dawes Battery. The works included construction of the Artillery Barracks, improvements to the semi-circular battery (then known as the Upper Battery), construction of the Lower Battery (for field artillery), and construction of the Officers' Quarters; it was completed in 1860.</p> <p>However, by the end of the 1800s Sydney's defences had been relocated to the entrance of Port Jackson and Dawes Point and other inner defences slipped into obscurity.</p> <p>In 1925 most of the fort was demolished to make way for the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The remaining buildings became the headquarters for Dorman Long, the company building the Bridge; these were demolished in 1932.</p> <p>Archaeological excavations in 1995, 1999 and 2000 revealed extensive remains including two underground rooms for storing gunpowder. An interesting 'find' in the excavation, was the top of the concrete block that incorporated the steel guide tubes (on the eastern side), through which passed the cables that restrained the half arch of the Sydney Harbour Bridge as it progressed.</p> <p>All the remains have been incorporated into a redesign of the park. The site is excellently and graphically interpreted, including a timeline of the fort's development.</p>		
Engineering Theme:	Defence, Army, Coastal Defences.		
Heritage Listing:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSW State Heritage Register SHR #01543 		
References/Sources:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dawes Point Tarra, Conservation Management Plan, Prepared for Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority. DSTA Report No. 10022, January 2011. • NSW State Heritage Register, listing SHR #01543 • Interpretive panel by Sydney Harbour Foreshore Authority 		
Nominated by:	Michael Clarke		
Contact Ph. & Email:	0431 887 001	nardiclarke@gmail.com	
EHA Branch:	Sydney	Nomination Date:	14 January 2024

ENGINEERING HERITAGE RECOGNITION PROGRAM



Dawes Battery - artillery barracks



Dawes Battery 1840.

Artist unknown



Dawes Battery - Upper Battery 1840



Dawes Battery - swivelling canon on replica carriage

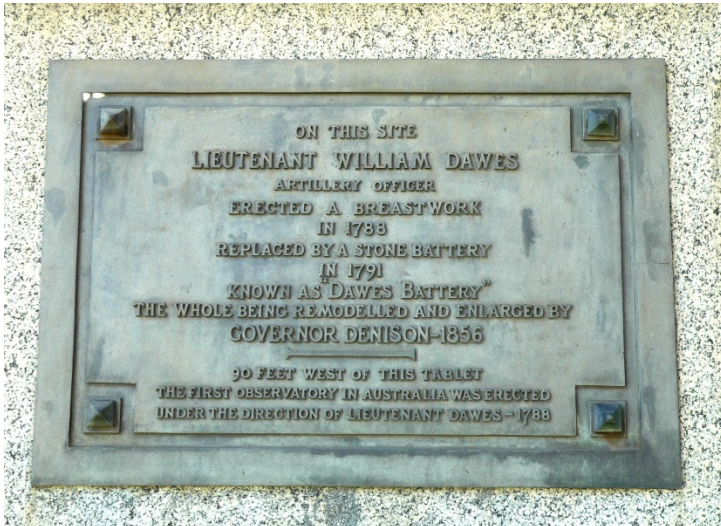


Dawes Battery - site of Lower Battery



Dawes Battery - Officers' Quarters

ENGINEERING HERITAGE RECOGNITION PROGRAM



Plaque commemorating Lt. Dawes



Dawes Battery remains - State Heritage Register curtilage



Remains of Sydney Harbour Bridge guide tubes for erection cables